

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-42 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1, 4-6, and 41 have been allowed. Claims 2, 7-15, 18, 23-30, 35, 36, 38, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) and claims 16, 17, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claim 28 is further objected to. Claims 19-21, 37, 39, and 40 are objected to but are otherwise allowable. Although not addressed, the Applicants assume that claims 31 and 32 are allowable and claims 33 and 34 are objected to. Claim 2 has been amended.

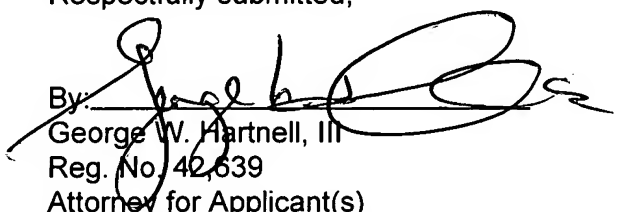
The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendment to claim 2

and the remarks provided in our Response to Final Office Action, which was received on February 18, 2005, which is incorporated herein by reference.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Preliminary Amendment. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**, Under Order No. 57,145 (46547).

Respectfully submitted,

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